

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 5 are independent. By this Amendment, Applicants have made amendments to the specification and to claims 1 and 5 to properly conform with U.S. format.

The specification has also been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed Foreign Application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

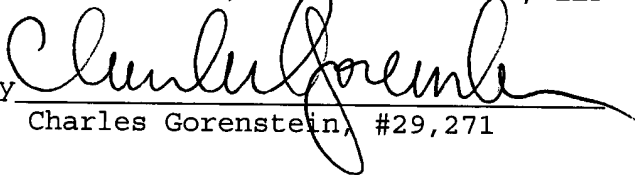
Conclusion


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Charles Gorenstein, #29,271


CG/CMV/jdm
1152-0305P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000